

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street NW
Washington D.C. 20554

July 11, 1998

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington DC 20554**

In the Matter of
Proposal for Creation of the Low Power FM (LPFM)
Broadcast Service

FCC RM-9242

To: Federal Communications Commission

Reply--Comments of R. Thomas Hunter
In Support of RM-9242

In 1874 a wise man said, "You have not converted a man because you have silenced him." Though eloquently spoken, the idea was nothing new. One hundred years before that, other wise men formulated the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. These documents were the inevitable expression of the passion for freedom that burns within the heart of men and women the world over. The lesson of history is that governments cannot survive if the relentless hunger for liberty is not satisfied. The lesson of this nation has been that no matter how repugnant the expressions of that freedom by some individuals might be to other individuals, freedom of speech--the unfettered ability to communicate all that the mind can conceive--has spawned a growth of the human spirit which in turn has enabled its citizens to create and produce as no nation has before. Allow individuals to be all they can be, and you get a standard of living beyond the dreams of even recent generations. Progress does not come from repression of the human spirit. The Third Reich and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proved that.

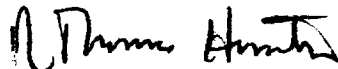
The founders of this nation knew that it is folly to repress individual expression. To nurture it, however, to allow it freedom, to allow individuals to explore the

frontiers of human possibility, is to open the way to growth, progress--and survival.

It is not enough for these brilliant and vital concepts to have been recorded in our founding documents. If they remain only there, they become history, gathering dust, like so much paper and ink, ignored by the public they were meant to protect. It is crucial to our survival that we continue to practice them and to keep them alive.

So although the concept of community radio--local stations broadcasting to local audiences--may seem inconsequential, it is as vital to our nation's future as Ben Franklin's printing press. The fact is that although the airwaves are public property, access to them by the public has been severely limited, if not totally denied. Just try to get your new song played on your favorite station. The Skinner petition, RM-9242, currently before the FCC would at least preserve a small corner of this public property for the public. Criminalizing attempts by the people to exercise rights over their own property may serve the interests of powers that be today. On the other hand, to provide for the exercise of freedom of speech is to serve the interests of the United States that will be in the future. It is to guarantee that the next Franklin, the next Jefferson, or the next Thomas Paine will have a forum from which to speak, that this nation is mature and wise enough to understand the value of these voices and that it will not have to hear them, like some King George, from some outlaw press announcing that the people have no choice but to start all over again.

Signed:



R. Thomas Hunter
1933 Hunters Ridge Dr.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
248-335-5073

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, R. Thomas Hunter, do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing "Reply-Comments on RM-9242" was sent via first-class mail this 13 of July, 1998 to the following parties:

Henry L. Baumann, Executive Vice-President & General Counsel,
National Association of Broadcasters, 1771 N Street NW,
Washington, D.C. 20036

Counsel for State Broadcasters Associations, Richard R. Zaragoza,
David D. Oxenford, Fisher Wayland Cooper Leader & Zaragoza
L.L.P., 2001 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Ste. 400, Washington, D.C.
20006-1851

Counsel for USA Digital Radio, L. L.P., Robert Mazer, Albert Shuldiner,
Vinson and Elkins, L.L.P., 1455 Pennsylvania Ave. NW,
Washington D.C. 20004-1008

American Community AM Broadcasters, Inc. (ACAMBA), Bryan
Smeathers, President, P.O. Box 973, Central City KY 42330

RM-9242 Petitioner, J. Rodger Skinner Jr./President, TRA
Communications Consultants, Inc., 6431 NW 65th Terrace,
Pompano Beach, FL 33067

signed:



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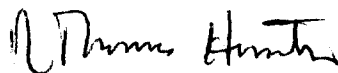
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